



# THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

## JANUARY MEETING: INTRODUCTION TO JS8, JEFF SONSTEIN, WA2RRB

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Jeff Sonstein (WA2RRB) is a retired RIT Prof and long-time hacker of code who, once upon a time, was an Army Sgt and radio operations chief. Jeff is particularly interested in approaches to communicating over long distances through noisy conditions using low power; in having "conversations, not just checkins".

At the January 2024 RARA meeting Jeff will be presenting materials about the JS8 protocol and the JS8Call software package (first released JAN 2019), with a practical focus on configuration and conversational-operations issues:

"JS8Call (JS8) is an amateur radio QSO communication mode based on FT8. It is popular among amateur radio operators for its ability to send and receive messages despite challenging propagation conditions, high noise environments, low power operations (QRP), or even compromised antennas.

JS8Call turns FT8 into a "chat" mode, allowing stations to send longer messages "keyboard-to-keyboard." JS8Call can be thought of like a very weak-signal radio broadcast form of 'e-mail' (though it is not e-mail), where operators can check their message inbox and reply later. Messages can also be sent out to be relayed through other operators to reach a recipient operator. JS8Call conversations can also be had in real-time." (From [JS8 wiki](#))

Issues such as rig-control and remote operations software choices will be touched upon, but the real focus will be on understanding, configuring, and using this protocol and software for conversational radio communications, ad hoc network formation, and message-passing possibilities.



You can join us online or in person. If you have been mostly online to our meetings recently consider joining us in person if you are not too far away. Enjoy the coffee and donuts, and especially the camaraderie of other members. The January meeting is on Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024, 7:00PM at the Boy Scouts Headquar-

ters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623. To attend online please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8812051769876578655>

Just a reminder, take a look around your radio room. Is there anything you no longer need which you would be happy to give to a new home? If so, please bring it for our 'Free to New Home Table', but make sure you take it home with you if nobody claims it. If you like old radio books make sure to check out the table this month!

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# BOARDZ BUZZ

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, SECRETARY

Ham radio is a fun and engaging hobby that allows people to communicate with others around the world without the use of telephones or the internet. It is also an important tool for emergency communication, especially in times of natural disasters when other forms of communication may be unavailable. RARA seeks to promote ham radio in our local Monroe County community. Our club focus is to educate the public about what ham radio is, identify individuals that may be interested in becoming a ham, provide the training needed to obtain a license, and help them to get on the air. Right off the bat, I want to admit that a local ham club is not the only way for individuals to get started in ham radio. There are many books, Youtube videos, internet "how to" articles that would allow one to get licensed without joining a ham club. However, I'd like to think that our club would offer a better path with more social interaction by attending license classes, events, and club meetings. Most importantly, we try to put a local face on our hobby.

The front door to our club is probably our website. Entering the words "rochester ham radio" in a Google search window leads directly to our RARA website as we might expect. When I did it, a link to the home page was presented. We have an easy to reach presence on the web. I searched articles about evaluating our website to provide some objective measure of its effectiveness. I found the article "[20 ways to promote your amateur radio club website](#)" and considered the points described there as some objective measure of how rochesterham.org meets those points.

1. Mission Statement— RARA has a mission statement and it is clearly stated from a link on the home page.
2. Navigation, images, rich-content— Our website has clear navigation sections defined on the left hand menu. There is generally a monthly meeting video on the home page with more videos and pictures on supporting pages. Our front page contains a menu of links to articles of interest to hams.
3. Encourage a sign-up? - There are links on the home page inviting visitors to join the club and members to renew. There is also a link to the club brochure describing what the club offers to visitors to the site.
4. Social media - At the top, right-hand side of the home page there are links to the clubs groups.io, Facebook, and YouTube feeds. Each of these feeds is working and has current content.
5. Testimonials - The website has a "Why Join RARA" page containing static items. The promotion article suggests that members write a short summary of why they recommend our club.
6. Member Survey - This is a frequent topic at the monthly meetings with few replies. More feedback would be helpful.
7. Help from ARRL - RARA is an ARRL Affiliated club with links on the ARRL Website.
8. Blogs - We do not have a blog per se. There is content that could be formatted as a blog or RSS feed if it would get coverage.

9. Unique features - During Covid, club meetings moved to an online format and following covid changed to hybrid meetings that are available in real time and on the website afterward. This has been very effective with total attendance exceeding many pre-covid meetings.
10. Newsletter / Mailing Lists - RARA Rag is widely distributed and managed using the club Constant Contact account.
11. News Stories - RARA is a frequent poster to <https://www.upstateham.com/> This is a regional news site.
12. Nets and Local Press - RARA does not operate its own net. We have also not been successful recently in preparing material for press coverage.

My conclusion from looking at the RARA website and applying the metrics described in the promotion article is that Scott, W2LW and his contributors are doing a great job promoting the club and ham radio through our modern, well designed, and current website.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY JAN 3, 2024** - RARA Meeting In Person and On-Line  
7:00 PM - AT THIS LINK <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8812051769876578655>

**THURSDAY JAN 4, 2024** - RARA Board of Directors Meeting  
6:30 PM - ONLINE  
Email request for link to [secretary@rochesterham.org](mailto:secretary@rochesterham.org)

**Saturday Feb 18, 2024** - RARA "Winterfest"  
10:00 AM Set up if you wish to help, 11:00 AM Event begins  
Bushman Cabin at Veterans Memorial Park, Henrietta

**Saturday Jun 8, 2024** - Finger Lakes Tour de Cure

# RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SEC-

Our membership count at the end of our membership year on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> was 603. We are currently only just past half way in our progress back to that number, and hopefully exceeding it!

Now is the time to renew if you have not already done so and are not a life member! Thanks to all who have already renewed.

**If your membership has lapsed, please renew your membership!**

You can join or renew your membership [here](#).

There are many membership benefits, here are just some of them:

- Only members can attend the RARA Annual Auction
- Free admission to the RARA Hamfest
- Access to license classes and discounts for license manuals
- Annual events such as the Picnic and Winterfest
- Membership points for contributing to club events
- Supporting an Organization that you value!

Being a member is also important, as your dues and a healthy membership count contribute to many RARA activities such as Rag subscription, monthly meetings, RARA Academy sessions Elmer's Corner, [groups.io](#) mailing list, Facebook page, etc. Attracting good speakers is greatly helped when we can point to the size of our club, one of the largest ARRL affiliated clubs by the way.



To remind you all, the software package we use to manage membership is very old and missing features that we would like to see. One of its limitations is that it stores in plain text the access code you use to get to your information from our website. That means the support team (both of us!) can see the code, so don't use your secret password or confidential information.

I'd also like to give a warm welcome to the following new members who joined the club in the past month:

Steven Harland Frank Mahns Brad Robinson
--

Remember to look out for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!

## NEW LOCATION FOR THE WINTERFEST

TIM BARRETT, K9VB RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Its getting to that time for our annual Winterfest. This year we are at a new location, the Bushman Cabin at Veterans Memorial Park.in Henrietta on Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> We start set-up at 10am ready to get going around 11am. It's a great location, the cabin is heated and warm, and there is plenty of space for antennas.

As usual we will have door prizes and lots of food. If you can, please bring a crockpot of something warm, we will award a prize for the best contribution! We are also inviting everyone to bring a dessert to share. Even if you don't have an opportunity to make something please come along anyway, the more the merrier. RARA will provide soft drinks and all the cups, plates, napkins and silverware needed.

We will have the club radio set up but feel free to bring your own gear. And if you are newly licensed radio amateur this is a great time to meet other hams and to get on the air yourself.

If you would like to help setting up then arrive around 10am otherwise we look forward to seeing you at 11 for food, friends and amateur radio!







## EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

### RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

#### License Classes

Do you know anybody who is interested in getting their first ham radio license, or would you like to upgrade?

It is time for our license classes again. We will start with our Technician class on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2024. We will also try to offer a General and an Amateur Extra license class. Please email [education@rochesterham.org](mailto:education@rochesterham.org) for more information and to sign up for these classes.

#### New General Question Pool

Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, all General license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. Make sure you have the correct edition. Even though this book is almost brand new, it already is out of date – the FCC changed the data rate limitations on the HF bands to a bandwidth restriction. In general, you can find the questions in all three question pools that have been withdrawn listed on this page: <http://www.arrl.org/withdrawn-questions>.

#### License Manuals

The current editions of the Technician and General license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to [education@rochesterham.org](mailto:education@rochesterham.org)

The Amateur Extra license manual will expire at the end of June 2024, because of that, we do not want to keep any stock that we might not be able to sell, but we can order a book for you for the same price as our other license manuals.

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events (e.g. the monthly meetings).

### RARA ACADEMY

We are working on a follow-up to our first RARA Academy about circuit simulation with LTSpice. I will post more information as soon as it is available.

If you have anything you would like to teach in a RARA Academy, please let us know. Even if it's something shorter, we can combine your topic with something else to fill the two-hour time slot that we usually aim for.

We are still looking for input in what our next Academy session should cover. To make it easy for our members to provide such input, we created an online survey. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/RaRaAcademySurvey2022> and fill out the survey. If this short link should not work, you can also use this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe\\_RvJyAfc2BidWxePLvK1r\\_CjQosS1PV0Ua6m2zETiyPa-w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe_RvJyAfc2BidWxePLvK1r_CjQosS1PV0Ua6m2zETiyPa-w/viewform)

And we are again looking for a volunteer to organize our RARA Academy sessions. This is a position for which you don't have to be an expert in anything as long as you are **good at organizing things**, and you will get a front row seat for all Academy presentations. If you are interested in joining our education team, please let us know.

### RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ

Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ

Elmers' Corner Coordinators

The December Elmer's corner was our last for 2023 and we are looking forward to kicking off 2024 with another great Elmer's Corner. Surprise surprise we will talk about antennas. Specifically end feds. A member has already asked to add this to the list for discussion. So bring your thoughts, ideas and experiences and add to the discussion. Certainly we will not limit ourselves to just that topic, we never do. Anything ham related is ok for discussion.

If **you** would like to see a recording of the last meeting, please send me an email and I will hook you up with the link.

We would love to see you at our next zoom meeting in January. Any topic on ham radio is welcome, and we have a lot of Elmers there to help answer all questions. I love the tips and tricks that our fellow hams bring to this monthly chat, and you can share your latest greatest ham story, everyone has one!

If you have any questions that you would like us to be prepared to answer, please email them to us at [elmerscorner@rochesterham.org](mailto:elmerscorner@rochesterham.org), and we will make sure that we are prepared for our Zoom meeting.

As always, bring your coffee, tea or other favorite morning beverage and join us for our Zoom meeting, the first Saturday of the month at 10AM.

Can't wait to see you there.

### ELMERS' CORNER

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month  
September – May

Next Zoom Meeting:  
**January 6<sup>th</sup> 10AM-12PM**

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)  
[pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667  
Passcode: 786545

One tap mobile  
+16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,\*786545# US (New York)  
+13126266799,,83484674667#,,,,\*786545# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiOoVkCMY>

Suzanne – W2SUZ  
Rich – KD2UBJ

## MORSE CODE TRAINING

**Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator**

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

### BEGINNERS MORSE CODE ZOOM CLASSES

Peter Fournia, W2SKY, hosts Morse Code classes on Thursday evenings 7pm. No experience required. Join the group at any session. Register at:  
[pfournia@gmail.com](mailto:pfournia@gmail.com)

### MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at:  
[tjbrown@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tjbrown@rochester.rr.com)

### RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09)  
[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852  
Passcode: tpjz8e

## W1AW On The Air CW Practice

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

## RADIO ELMERS

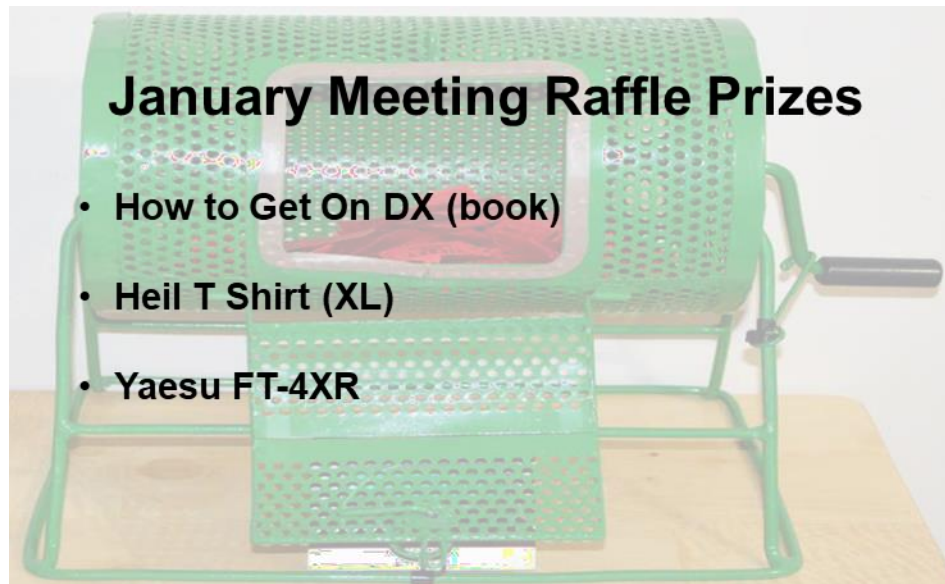
Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	<a href="mailto:tjbrown@rochester.rr.com">tjbrown@rochester.rr.com</a>
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	<a href="mailto:kdcarlso@gmail.com">kdcarlso@gmail.com</a>
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	<a href="mailto:lawrence.hill@rit.edu">lawrence.hill@rit.edu</a>
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		<a href="mailto:rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com">rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com</a>
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	<a href="mailto:wb2sxy@gmail.com">wb2sxy@gmail.com</a>
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	<a href="mailto:dkiser100@gmail.com">dkiser100@gmail.com</a>
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	<a href="mailto:k5khk@khk.net">k5khk@khk.net</a>
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		<a href="mailto:mikemoore@ieee.org">mikemoore@ieee.org</a>
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	<a href="mailto:pschuch@rochester.rr.com">pschuch@rochester.rr.com</a>
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	<a href="mailto:fshick3@gmail.com">fshick3@gmail.com</a>
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	<a href="mailto:dstimmons@gmail.com">dstimmons@gmail.com</a>
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		<a href="mailto:verzulli@yahoo.com">verzulli@yahoo.com</a>
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	<a href="mailto:higreen@rochester.rr.com">higreen@rochester.rr.com</a>

## CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	<a href="mailto:w2ned@frontiernet.net">w2ned@frontiernet.net</a>
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	<a href="mailto:tjbrown@rochester.rr.com">tjbrown@rochester.rr.com</a>
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	<a href="mailto:pfournia@gmail.com">pfournia@gmail.com</a>
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	<a href="mailto:whopkin4@naz.edu">whopkin4@naz.edu</a>
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	<a href="mailto:rkarz@rochester.rr.com">rkarz@rochester.rr.com</a>
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	<a href="mailto:ag2y@rochester.rr.com">ag2y@rochester.rr.com</a>
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	<a href="mailto:harryw7872@gmail.com">harryw7872@gmail.com</a>

## January Meeting Raffle Prizes

- How to Get On DX (book)
- Heil T Shirt (XL)
- Yaesu FT-4XR



# HAM RADIO AT MAKER FAIRE

JON DICKASON, N2JAC



RARA and ARES were at Maker Faire in November for the annual hands-on super show-and-tell held at the Riverside Convention Center in conjunction with, and sponsored by, the New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education (NYSCATE) teacher's convention.

Maker Faire is a great opportunity for kids to get hands-on with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) activities including building their own projects. Our ham radio booth showed kids some radio activities and we helped them build their own morse code oscillator as we have done in past years.

Karl Heinz K5KHK showed many QRP radios and accessories for POTA, Sam KD2TVB had his brand new go-box doing APRS and voice, George K4GWA had a QRP HF rig with portable antenna. Joe AD2DB and I helped the kids build their code keys, thanks to JD N2OYG. Examples of other exhibits were: robotics, silk screening, soldering, cosplayers, games, electronics, flamethrowing trumpets!, rockets, lockpicking, and more.

<https://rochester.makerfaire.com/>



# JANUARY IS STRAIGHT KEY MONTH

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK

There is no wrong month to practice your skills with a straight key – but one month out of the year, we get some incentives to give those paddles a rest and pick up a straight key – the original and still the most natural way to generate Morse code.

## Straight Key Night

It's time again to polish and adjust those brass straight keys and bugs to get ready for the Straight Key Night (SKN) on New Year's Day (UTC, which means you can get quite a bit of operating in before the ball drops at midnight). Details about this operating event can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

Keep in mind that this is not a contest, so stop and smell the 3-in-1 oil you used to lubricate that key and spend a bit more time on your contacts than the quick exchange of just the bare minimum of what's required to log the QSO. This is about appreciating mechanically produced CW. And yes, we don't all have perfect fists, but that's what makes the straight key so interesting.

## SKCC K3Y Event

We are not done yet using our straight key (or bugs or cooties): Keep that key ready, because the remainder of January is the Straight Key Century Club's (SKCC) anniversary event with the K3Y special event call being on the air from all ten US calling areas, plus KH6, KL7 and KP4. There will also be several associated DX stations from six IARU continental regions and of course Canadian stations participating in the event. The plan is to have all 50 states participate in using the K3Y call sign. If you need to fill in some states for your CW WAS, this is a good opportunity.

You can keep track of your progress by using the SKCCLogger program (see the SKCC web page for more information). And, after the event, there is of course a QSL card that will list all the areas you were able to contact (the picture shows the QSL card from a couple of years ago and one of my straight keys – I built the one in the picture in 11<sup>th</sup> grade). To learn more about the event, see the official SKCC page:

<https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y.php>

If you've participated in previous years, and feel up to the challenge, you can even volunteer to operate K3Y for an hour or two. If you are working on climbing the SKCC ladder towards your senator level, that is a great chance to get a lot of contacts in a short amount of time.

This is not an event just for experienced operators: If you are new to CW, this is also a great opportunity to practice listening and sending, and you might be surprised by the progress you can make over one month.

I hope to hear you on the air when I chase the K3Y stations across the world.



# JANUARY 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE RAG ARTICLE

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

At the close of the 2023 calendar year I want to provide a summary of the public service event program for this past year. Our opening event was the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Tour de Cure which was planned for June 10 at the Xerox site in Webster. For the few weeks leading up to the ride we had a cover of smoke that had on-and-off blown in from wildfires in Canada. The June ride was postponed due to health and safety concerns resulting from the smoke. Following a replan by the ADA and RARA being willing to change the date of the Summer Picnic a new date was selected for the tour of July 22. The rescheduled event went off as planned with clear, smoke free skies. No major incidents occurred along the ride routes and 28 Radio Amateurs participated with a total of 260 hours of service.

Our next scheduled event was the Multiple Sclerosis Society MS ROC Great Lakes Experience on August 12 at Lakeside State Park in Waterport. The plan for this event was for 3 rides to leave from and return to Lakeside State Park with ride distances of 16, 30, and 63 miles in length. We were poised for a successful event with communications conducted from the ride side using the NR2C Medina, NY Repeater. Unfortunately, this event was canceled by the organizer because of a threatening weather forecast along the route. 14 RARA amateur operators were registered and prepared to execute this event.

The International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW) was held at the Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse August 19-20. This is an operating event where we contact as many similar ILLW stations as we can and it is also an opportunity to showcase our hobby to members of the public. Several stations were set up on the lawn of the lighthouse.

The Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta was held September 23 on the canal south of the Rt 31 F bridge in Fairport. Amateur operators were stationed along the race course and at the Fairport Crew Club, the host of the race. Net control was located in the Perinton Park Pavilion and managed amateur net communications, race advisory messages using FRS Radios, and maintained listening watch on marine channel 23 for boats transiting the area and Monroe County Sheriff's boat. The regatta featured 23 separate race events with a total of 87 crews. The Fairport Crew Club provides opportunities for youth grades 6-12 to learn to row and be part of a competitive rowing team. FCC also offers Summer Youth and Adult rowing opportunities. 17 RARA members participated.

The Wilmot Cancer Center Breakaway Ride was held on Saturday, Sept. 30 and was based at the UR Central Lab on Bailey Road in West Henrietta. There were 3 ride courses of 75, 50, and 27 miles in length with the courses extending southeast to Canandaigua. Amateur Radio operations were conducted on the K2GXT RIT repeater 442.055, WR2AHL Bristol Mountain repeater 444.55, and WR2AHL Canadice repeater 444.95. We also used trunked radios loaned to us by Monroe County and this allowed communications in areas with marginal re-

peater coverage and direct communication with non hams. Our communications command center was operated out of a UR Central Lab conference room. 17 RARA members participated.

The Challenge Trophy Camporee (CTC) and Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) was a combined event held at Scouts BSA Camp Cutler in Naples, NY on October 21. This campout was attended by 500 scouts from the area and all were invited to the RARA Amateur Radio Station. The JOTA is a worldwide event and the scouts were each invited to say hello and exchange information with scouts at other camps. Conditions were good and we operated mostly on 40 and 20 meters using the club radios. In addition to SSB contacts there was a demonstration of CW and FT8. 8 RARA members participated

Pumpkin Patrol was held on October 30, and 31 Each night began at 7PM with a roll-call from Net Control and continued until after 11 PM. We watch each of the 16 bridges over the NYS Thruway to report acts of vandalism to law enforcement. Ham clubs all along the Thruway likewise participate. 25 RARA members participated.

As you can see, we had a very full year of events. Thanks to all of you, especially the team captains, for making these events a success! Upcoming events in the public service calendar are listed in the following table. Visit [https://rochesterham.org/public\\_service.htm](https://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm) for more information and to volunteer.

Remaining events in the public service calendar are listed in the following table. Visit [https://rochesterham.org/public\\_service.htm](https://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm) for more information and to volunteer.

2023-2024 RARA Public Service Events Jan. Rag			
Event	Location	Day	Date
Finger Lakes Tour de Cure	Finger Lakes Community College Canandaigua, NY	Saturday	June 8, 2024
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes Adventure	Lakeside Beach State Park	Saturday	August 10, 2024
ILLW	Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse	Saturday and Sunday	August 17-18, 2024
Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta	Erie Canal – Fairport, NY	Saturday	TBD
Wilmot Breakaway Ride	UR Central Lab, 211 Bailey Road, West Henrietta	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration - CTC	Camp Cutler, Naples, NY	Saturday	Oct. 19, 2024
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Wednesday and Thursday	Oct. 30-31, 2024

# RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

January 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint SARTG RTTY New Yr Contest AGCW New Yr Contest	<b>2</b> Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	<b>3</b> RARA Monthly Mtg BSA & ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest UKEICC 80m Contest	<b>4</b> RARA BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NRAU 10m Activity Contest NCCC FT4 Sprint SKCC Sprint (Europe) NCCC RTTY Sprint QRP Foxhunt NCCC Sprint	<b>5</b> K1USN Speed Test	<b>6</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm ARRL Kids Day PODXS 070 Club PSKFest Marconi ARI Loano QSO Party SKCC Sprint Europe WW PMC Contest RSGB AFS Contest, CW EUCW 160M Contest ARRL RTTY Roundup
<b>7</b> ARRL RTTY Roundup WW PMC Contest EUCW 160M Contest	<b>8</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	<b>9</b> Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt DARC RTTY Sprint	<b>10</b> ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	<b>11</b> ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB EACW Meeting NCCC FT4 Sprint NCCC RTTY Sprint QRP Foxhunt NCCC Sprint	<b>12</b> K1USN Speed Test	<b>13</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm YB DX Contest WAB 1.8 MHz Phone UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest NA QSO Party, CW SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
<b>14</b> UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest NA QSO Party, CW NRAU-Baltic Contest DARC 10m Contest RSGB AFS Contest, Data SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	<b>15</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	<b>16</b> Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	<b>17</b> ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest	<b>18</b> ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NTC QSO Party Walk for the Bacon Contest NCCC Sprint NCCC FT4 Sprint NCCC RTTY Sprint QRP Foxhunt	<b>19</b> K1USN Speed Test	<b>20</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm ARRL January VHF Contest Hungarian DX Contest RSGB AFS Contest, SSB North American QSO Party, SSB PRO Digi Contest Feld Hell Sprint Run for the Bacon QRP Sprint NA Collegiate Champ, SSB
<b>21</b> Hungarian DX Contest North American QSO Party, SSB PRO Digi Contest	<b>22</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	<b>23</b> Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	<b>24</b> ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test Mini Test 40, 80 NAQCC CW Sprint	<b>25</b> ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NCCC FT4 Sprint NCCC RTTY Sprint NCCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt Australia Day Contest	<b>26</b> K1USN Speed Test Australia Day Contest	<b>27</b> ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm CQ 160M Contest, CW REF Contest, CW UBA DX Contest, SSB Winter Field Day BARTG RTTY Sprint
<b>28</b> CQ 160M Contest, CW REF Contest, CW UBA DX Contest, SSB Winter Field Day BARTG RTTY Sprint	<b>29</b> AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge	<b>30</b> Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	<b>31</b> ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 UKEICC 80m Contest			



# VE TEAM

Testing takes place on the 3rd Saturday September - April

## Testing Location

RIT  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Building 16 -Schmitt Interfaith Center  
43.08402626755475, -77.6734520379509

- Easiest path is from Parking Lot D it can be accessed from West Jefferson Rd via Andrews Memorial Dr or Lowenthal Rd
- From parking lot D walk south up the ramp to the Schmitt Interfaith Center.
- Once inside there is an elevator over to your left or stairs in front of you. Go to the first floor and you will find the Skalny room.

**Please Note:** this room cannot be accessed from the door under the bridge.

Pre-registration is required visit:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/14612/inperson> to find the latest session.

More information is available on the RARA website:

[https://rochesterham.org/license\\_testing.htm](https://rochesterham.org/license_testing.htm)

Applicants must supply their own pen, pencil, calculator

Testing begins at 10:00AM.

**Also Note:** The exam is free however the FCC now charges \$35 for applications. This fee is NOT paid to the VE team. It is paid directly to the FCC. You will receive an email from the FCC when your application is processed. We will also have an information sheet available

## December VE Session Results

App Type	Existing Call	Name	Location	OpClass	Name Change	Call Change	Result	New Call
New		Ian J Dolfi	Rostraver Twp, PA	Extra	-	-	Offlined	
Modify	KC4CYO	William R Eacker	Silver Creek, NY	Extra	-	YES	Granted	AD2GP
Modify	N2GWN	Gregory E Farrell	Rochester, NY	Extra	-	-	Granted	N2GWN
Modify	W2DEF	Donald E Flick	Williamson, NY	General	-	-	Granted	W2DEF
Modify	KE2CBJ	Jorge C Mex Perera	Henrietta, NY	Extra	-	-	Granted	KE2CBJ
New		Kenneth R Wierzbowski	Rochester , NY	Tech	-	-	Offlined	
Modify	KE2CCA	Danielle T Williams	Rochester, NY	Extra	-	-	Granted	KE2CCA

# NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

## MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES News

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at the county EOC at 6:00 PM and are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: [secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org](mailto:secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org).

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: [www.monroecountyemcomm.org](http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org)

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

## ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

**RDXA Annual Holiday Dinner:**

19 December, 2023 at Johnny's

Go to [RDXA.COM](http://RDXA.COM) for additional information



## XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July and August). 7PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us> We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city that is also D-Star capable. Both are also analog capable with 110.9Hz tone. All are welcome.

## AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month except February at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

NOTE: Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings are now being held both in person and online. Check out the Upcoming Events at our website, [www.arast.info](http://www.arast.info), for the latest details.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at [http://www.arast.info/arast\\_website/public/repeaters.php](http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php).

We also invite you to check out our new 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. The net usually lasts approximately one hour. Operators are encouraged to check in and participate in the round table discussions or simply stop by from time to time. We would welcome participation from RARA members.

## COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

## DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

## DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Riki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

## KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

The Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association met for a wonderful Christmas Dinner Sunday Dec 3rd at Stephanie's Restaurant in Bath.

At our meeting in November we had Skywarn training. Always good to train new Hams and refresh the experienced ones.

The Solar Eclipse is in April 2024 and we will be setting up a special event station at Helmer Nature Center in Irondequoit, NY. Looking forward to making many contacts! Also our Winter Groundhog Hamfest is February 3, 2024 at Almond Community Center. Contact Belinda Connor KD2BPJ@Gmail for information on setting up. It's all indoors and free for everyone.

From our House to yours we hope your Christmas was full of great memories and everyone has a safe wonderful 2024.

73  
Belinda Connor, KD2BPJK  
KLARA Secretary

## ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

## ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to  
join us on-line &  
on-the-air! We're  
here to help you to  
use the license that  
you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our  
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message  
to [RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io).

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:  
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB  
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?  
Log-in to Echolink [ka2ene-L #23426](#)

We can help to answer the question, "What radio should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands, giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research each one to see which serves you best. Ask questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models, but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication. These are good all-around radios no matter what club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

## SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 08th. There will be VE testing in November.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate.

## ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

We were able to call a quorum and hold officer elections at our June meeting. Thanks to those members that attended either in person or via Zoom. The elected club officers are Bob Odell - N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell - N2HJD - Vice President, Jerry Powell - KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman, and Jay Stewart - W4JPS - Secretary.

Stay tuned to our web site, [WWW.K2RRA.ORG](http://WWW.K2RRA.ORG) for any current information. RRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. [www.k2rra.org](http://www.k2rra.org)

## THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

### THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

<b>CONSIDERATE</b>	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
<b>LOYAL</b>	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
<b>PROGRESSIVE</b>	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
<b>FRIENDLY</b>	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
<b>BALANCED</b>	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
<b>PATRIOTIC</b>	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.





## AWA Educational Institute

### 2024 Hands-On Classes

### Learn It, Build It, Fix It

Vacuum Tube AM Radio101	7 Saturdays Starting 4/6
Vacuum Tube Audio Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 4/7-4/9
Vacuum Tube Guitar Amplifier	7 Saturdays Starting 6/29
Vacuum Tube Radio101 Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 9/29-10/1
Solid State Audio Theory	3 Saturdays Starting 10/12
Test Equipment Familiarization	Saturday 11/9

To get more information visit: [www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/](https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/)

## AWA SHARES

MICHAEL C. MIGLIACCIO, N3HLM, VICE PRESIDENT, AWA

The monthly *AWA Shares* is about to stage its thirtieth presenter. Thanks to the video on-line streaming of Zoom becoming so popular in the past few years, people are now able to learn more about the historical and technical universe of communications. Presented topics have ranged from accounts of the bygone era of electrically assisted communications to the specific technology details of practical designs. Every third Wednesday of the month Zoom presentations bring you the adventures of early communications pioneers into the privacy and convenience of your home. Audio kits, locating power line noise, NASA communications, early amateur radio pursuits, telegraphy, broadcast history and many other topics delivered to you, in the comfort of your special space where you can sit in your comfy clothes, sip a favorite beverage, enjoying your favorite snack. I encourage you to go to the AWA website and register for the free monthly *AWA Shares* presentations.

Link: <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/awa-shares/>

DAY	PRESENTER	TITLE
12/20/2023	Felicia Kreuzer	Christmas at the AWA Library
01/17/2024	Mike Murphy	Vintage Law Enforcement Surveillance Radio
02/21/2024	Len Arzoomanian	Rhode Island Made Radios Attachment: Thank you from Retirees ROC

# RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

## 20 Years Ago, January 2004

Program Chairman Brad Mitchel W1YX, snagged a great program for this month by meeting one of RARA's goals of providing local talent when selecting speakers. This time we learned that Kevin Carey WB2QMY, of nearby Bloomfield, NY, will speak on the many aspects of longwave radio and the many signals to be found on frequencies below our mediumwave broadcast frequencies. Kevin comes to us from Microwave Data Systems where he was a Publications Specialist Coordinator. Programs at this time were held at the Henrietta Fire Hall on Henrietta Road, a popular venue for many years.

Many of you readers out there will certainly remember Dick Goslee (sk) K2VCZ, RARA's Treasurer of many years. In that job he also received and processed membership dues money. In this issue Dick reported a little-known fact about dues payments received and that was a large and very quiet group who regularly paid more than the required annual amount, sometimes much more, as a donation to RARA and it's numerous activities on behalf of local amateurs. In this column Goslee provided forty-three names of RARA members who voluntarily and without any urging offered extra payments totaling \$870.00.

Judy Stonehill, N2XYS, writing for the local ARES operations, this month told of group activities regarding the various directed net protocols developed by the National Traffic System. There, Judy described the recent work of Greg Michels KC2GXV, who led a workshop on that subject and was a lead-in to future gatherings to offer more training on traffic Handling. Gregg offered that checking into the New York State Public Operations Net (NYPON) on HF, or the Western District Net (WDN) on two meters, as good ways to listen and learn voice procedures.

RARA's new Historian, Ed Gable K2MP, having taken over that position from Bruce Kelley (sk) W2ICE, wrote to encourage hams everywhere to save those old Amateur Radio related historical documents, especially photos, that are gathering dust in attics in large numbers. Common photos taken by all of you covering such activities as Radio Coaches, the K2JD Club Stations, the NASA/ISS communications at Webster Schools, JOTA and many more will be lost forever unless you salvage them now and turn such items over to Ed or any RARA Officer at any meeting. Do it now!

Writing for the RARA Licensing class, ending November 24, 2003, was Ray Pickens (sk) WA2MYG, the Class Director, Ray told of twenty-three students starting the class and the successful completion of two Novice to Tech upgrades, five Tech to General upgrades and six new Technician licensees and the remaining having to schedule testing at the next testing session.

Ray Pickens also wrote a small column inviting hams everywhere to join in a monthly ham luncheon, always on the last Friday of the month, at Noon, at the Old Country Buffet in Stone-Ridge Plaza.

There were no Silent Keys listed in this issue. From the For Sale Ads you could buy what was advertised as a "serious HF Yagi" and described as a large nine element, five band antenna with a 39 foot, 3 inch in diameter boom, built by Mosley. A long-term commercial advertiser was an old friend of RARA, Glenwood Sales of Hague Street in Rochester, selling new and new surplus electronic components.

The cover of the RARA RAG magazine, January 2004 issue. The title "the RARA RAG" is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below it, it says "Published by ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.". The issue is labeled "VOL. 56", "JANUARY 2004", and "NO. 5". The main headline is "WHOOOPS IT'S 2004". There are several articles and advertisements. One article is titled "LONGWAVE....." by Brad Armstrong W1YX. Another article is titled "Kevin was first licensed" by Kevin Carey WB2QMY. There is also a "Talk Up Amateur Radio" advertisement. At the bottom, there is a "RaRa MEETING" announcement for January 2, 2004, at 8:00 PM, at the Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 E. Henrietta Rd, Longwave, presented by Kevin Carey WB2QMY.

**the RARA RAG**  
Published by  
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 56 JANUARY 2004 NO. 5

## WHOOOPS IT'S 2004

**LONGWAVE.....**  
Brad Armstrong W1YX  
First, let me thank all of you who attended the joint RaRa/Kodak meeting. Both the folks from Kodak and myself were pleased with the turnout and the presentations were full of interesting information. We look forward to visiting them again next year!

The speaker for January's meeting will be Kevin Carey, WB2QMY. He will cover the many aspects of longwave radio. I, for one was not aware of just how much goes on below the AM broadcast band. He plans to take a broad-brush approach to what can be heard there—navigation beacons, LF experimenters, European broadcast

stations, DGPS signals, natural radio, and more. He also will include specific ways of getting on the band and offer some tips for improved reception. This should be both informative and educational and amateurs of all experience levels will find something to interest them.

Kevin was first licensed in 1977 and is currently Active on all bands 160 Thru 2 meters. His other interests include, QRP, Home-brew, DFing, and vintage radios, and old radio literature. He is a Publications Specialist/Coordinator for Microwave Data Systems in Brighton and a Senior Member of the Society for Technical Communication.

My hope for this year is to find as many ways for folks to get involved in local amateur activities as I can and learn a little along the way. Slots for the rest of the season are filling up fast so, if you have a program idea, especially one that showcases ways for local hams to get involved (doing, building, learning, any way at all), please contact me as soon as possible so I can get you on the schedule. See you at the meeting!

**Talk Up Amateur Radio**

**RaRa MEETING**  
JANUARY 2, 2004  
8:00 PM  
HENRIETTA FIRE HALL  
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD  
LONGWAVE  
Presented by  
Kevin Carey WB2QMY

RaRa RAG 1



# RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

## 40 Years Ago, January 1984

In a rarely done format this issue had a very large, two column wide, extra bold headline reading "FCC KILLS CODELESS LICENSE." The otherwise clueless follow-up contained just one supporting sentence that said "it went on to say the Commission (FCC) went on record opposing the proposal (Code Free Licensing) in the strongest language possible."

VP and Program Chairman Ray Roberts (sk) WA2SSU, wrote to introduce an interesting meeting that would feature a panel of "technical experts" who would dare to accept all technical questions from the ham radio audience. Heading the panel was Joe Hood K2YH, as moderator, with his expert panel consisting of Bob K2LZG, Ed K2MP, and Ron K2RJ. The Rag is silent as to how well the team handled the challenging queries.

Under the *Public Service* heading we found Ed Holdsworth (sk) N2EH, who reported a record number of public service events, totaling twenty-one, were worked by the ever time generous RARA hams. Ed Holdsworth went on to say there were already eight public service events scheduled for 1984.

The then RARA historian, Bruce Kelley (sk) W2ICE, wrote to inform readers that the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) has started a series of special on-air QSO parties where participants were required to use transmitters originating from 1929 or earlier running low power CW. Eager participants included locals: W2GB, W2HYN, KA2JAJ, KA2KGM, W2LC, K2MP, W2OWF, W2VVC, K2WW and a nice catch of W2UTH/KH6 if you could hear his weak signal from Hawaii. A nice photo of a 1929 era, single tube, Hartley oscillator transmitter, complete with hand wound coils of quarter inch copper tubing was provided.

**Bits and Pieces:** There were 719 paid RARA members at this time. Howie Davies N2CUN, writing for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) announced their next meeting would find members at the *Strasenberg Planetarium* to attend a showing of the new *January Skies* program. Ed Holdsworth (sk) N2EH, this time wearing his Licensing Class director hat, announced that their recently completed Fall Session graduated twenty-four new Novice licensees and nineteen new Generals. The Rochester VHF group's next meeting program will find Rich Place WB2JLR, speaking on 10 GHz amateur communications using converted police radar units.

With regret it was reported that Bob Schultze K2RKO, John Walrath W2OZC and Vic Clark W4KFC were reported as Silent keys. Some may remember Vic Clark as a retired President of the ARRL and an active member of the AWA. From the Want Ads you could buy a Swan 400 transceiver with VFO and power supply from Gene Pochalski KC2OQ. The Heathkit Center at 937 Jefferson Road, managed by Dick Goslee (sk) K2VCZ, remained a long-time commercial advertiser.



## the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Rochester, N.Y.

JANUARY 1984

Volume 36 No. 5

# FCC KILLS CODELESS LICENSE

The Federal Communications Commission unanimously voted down the code-free license proposed rulemaking at a Commission meeting December 14th.

The Commission went on record opposing the proposal in the strongest language possible.

## JANUARY MEETING — TECHNICAL Q/A

by Ray Roberts, WA2SSU

Are you wondering why that antenna you put up last summer doesn't work any better than a clip lead hooked to the antenna terminals of your new rig? Or maybe how to get rid of annoying alternator whine on your mobile rig. Or maybe you've always wondered what the passband tuning really did on your new rig.

You will all have your chance to stump our panel of experts on any technical question at our January meeting. And, if you wish to keep your lack of knowledge from becoming common knowledge, you even may submit your questions anonymously in writing at the start of the meeting.

Our technical panel will be headed by Joe Hood, K2YA, with assistance from Bob Reifsteck, K2LZG; Ed Gable, K2MP; and Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ.

George Muller, WA2IEO, will again provide the best in after-meeting refreshments, and Don Drennan, W2EBF, will present some very interesting awards. See you all there!

## IS THIS YOUR FINAL RAG?

For those of you who have not yet renewed your membership in RaRa for 1984, please do so quickly or this will be the last *Rag* that you will receive. Even if you can't come out to the meetings, club membership provides you with many services such as the *Rag*, the *RaRa Directory*, and license classes just to name a few.

For those of you who have renewed your membership, the club officers and board of directors wish to extend their thanks for your support.

## RRRA MEETS AT PLANETARIUM

by Howie Davies, N2CUN

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will present its 3rd annual *Family Night at Strasenberg Planetarium* January 20th. A short meeting will be held at 7:30 in one of the Planetarium meeting rooms. The show is called *January Skies* and will start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, and normal child and student prices will prevail. Let's see a good turnout!

## VALENTINE DINNER PARTY

Tickets for the VALENTINE DINNER PARTY will be available at the January RaRa meeting. The cost is the same as last year, \$15.00/ticket. So while you are marking your calendar for the DINNER PARTY itself (February 11 at 6:00 p.m.), also mark it for the January meeting (January 6).

The Menu, at the Holiday Inn Airport, features a choice of three: Roast Top Sirloin, Broiled Sole, or Baked Breast of Chicken Normandy. Entertainment will be by Jerry Argetsinger. You may have seen his magic act at the Marriot during the hamfest a couple years ago. The cocktails begin at 6:00, dinner at 7:00, and entertainment at 8:00.

February 11 is the second Saturday in February. Holiday Inn Airport is at 911 Brooks Avenue. Contact Bradley Wallace, N2BEJ, or any board member for your tickets.

## SILENT KEYS

K2RKO, Robert J. Schulze, Webster  
W2OZC, John W. Walrath, Rochester  
W4KFC, Vic Clark, ARRL

# RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

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## FEBRUARY RAG DEADLINE

### JANUARY 15, 2024

**RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST  
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

**JOIN US IN PERSON**

**OR**

**ONLINE AT:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8812051769876578655>

CONTACT [WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG](mailto:WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG) FOR SUPPORT

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